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HEALTH
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LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

1955

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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J. J. E. Pilson, Esq., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

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Mrs. M. B. Heady.

J. J. E. Pilson Esq.

F. H. Turner Esq.

R. B. A. Turney Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Retd.)

SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR:

W. Meredith, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices,
6, Leighton Road,
LINSLADE.

14th July, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of
Linslade Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

The Birth Rate maintained a high level, being again
3 points higher than that for the rest of the country, and
is second highest of the 20 Buckinghamshire County Districts.

The Death Rate is also at a satisfactory low level, being
4 points less than the rate for the rest of the country.
Heart Diseases and Cancer accounted for 23 of the total of
33 deaths.

The Infantile Mortality Rate remains the same but is
still lower than the rate for England and Wales. There was
one death in this group.

In the realm of Infectious Diseases we had quite a
sharp epidemic of Measles. A total of 199 cases were
notified, the majority in the last quarter. It is pleasing
to note that no new cases of Tuberculosis were notified and
there were no deaths from this disease.

I should like to record another year of pleasant co-
operation with your Clerk, Mr. Uphill, your Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Meredith, and their staffs.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1955

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL	1954	1955
Area in acres	1,693	1,693
Population	3,400	3,500
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,115	1,174
Rateable Value	£20,906	£21,737
Rate in the £	28/-	27/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£82	£86
2. BIRTHS		
Legitimate (Male)	22	34
" (female)	40	26
Illegitimate	1	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.8	18.0
" " " " (Bucks)	15.6	15.4
" " " " (England & Wales)	15.2	15.0
3. DEATHS		
Males	19	16
Females	8	17
Death Rate per 1,000 population	6.5	7.8
" " " " (Bucks)	9.5	9.8
" " " " (England & Wales)	11.3	11.7
Still Births	Nil	1
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	Nil
" " " (Bucks)	0.47	0.31
" " " (England & Wales)	0.69	0.64

4. INFANTILE MORTALITY

								<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 births								15.9	16.1
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"(Bucks)	22.4	20.0
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(England & Wales)	25.5	24.9

5. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

								<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
								M. F. T.	M. F. T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..					1 0 1	0 0 0
Other Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..			0 0 0	0 0 0
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 2 7	0 4 4
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 0	0 2 2
Haemorrhage into Nervous System	.	..						0 0 0	3 2 5
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 4 12	8 6 14
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 0	1 0 1
Bronchitis & other Respiratory Diseases								0 0 0	1 1 2
Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	..			1 1 2	1 0 1
Congenital Diseases	.	..	..	..	..			0 0 0	0 1 1
Suicide Accidents	..	..	..	..	..			2 0 2	0 0 0
All other causes	..	..	..	..	..			2 1 3	2 1 3
							Totals	<u>19 8 27</u>	<u>16 17 33</u>

(B) GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

For general cases, accidents and infectious disease, two motor ambulances and one car for sitting cases are maintained in the district.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse in her usual efficient manner.

4. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE .

A centre at The Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the second and fourth Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month, and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session. Attendances by children during the year numbered 963.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have received cases from the area:-

Luton and Dunstable	Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury
Spittlesea Hospital, Luton	Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.
Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury.	

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The total amount of water abstracted during the year was 54,582,000 gallons. The yield from No. 1. borehole remained constant at approximately 4,500 gallons per hour. The output from No. 2 borehole continued to fall. The submersible pump was installed in No. 3 borehole during the summer and No. 2 pump was then taken out of regular use, pending its removal and overhaul.

Of 65 samples taken from various points on the distribution system and submitted for bacteriological examination, 12 reports showed either suspicious or unsatisfactory results, the remainder being satisfactory.

These results indicated need for purification treatment. Chlorinating apparatus was ordered, but delivery was still awaited at the end of the year.

Chemical Examination of a sample taken on the 12th October 1955 was reported upon as follows:-

Chemical Results
in Parts per Million

Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Clear and Bright
Turbidity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Colour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Odour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
pH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Electric Conductivity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	610
Total Solids	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410
Chlorine present as Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250
Hardness: Total	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	355
Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250
Non-Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105
Nitrate Nitrogen.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.0
Nitrite Nitrogen.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.000
Residual Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is of the highest standard of organic quality.

"From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

1161 houses were supplied with water direct from the public mains and nine by means of standpipes. It is estimated that 99.6% of the population of the district received water from the public supply.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Examination of a sample taken from the disposal works showed that, except for the large amount of matter in suspension, the effluent complied with the general standard recommended.

The combined sewage disposal works to serve Linslade and Leighton Buzzard was still under consideration at the end of the year.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly house and trade refuse collection was carried out satisfactorily.

The introduction of a waste paper salvage scheme was postponed, pending the purchase of a new refuse collection vehicle.

The use of the Leighton Buzzard Refuse Tip was continued on an agreed financial basis.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Periodic inspections of the canal, river and streams within the Urban District revealed one or two slight cases of pollution.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are, unfortunately, no swimming facilities for the public within the Urban District.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was used once during the year.

(D) H O U S I N G

Thirty-three new Council dwellings on Mentmore Road housing site were occupied during the year. These consisted of 29 houses and 4 flats. At the end of the year 12 dwellings were in course of construction on this site.

26 houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

202 Council houses and 117 private enterprise houses have been built in Linslade since the war.

Inspection of district

The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	.. ..	14
The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	..	11
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:-		
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	.. .. ..	3
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders		Nil
The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	.. .. ..	3
The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	.. ..	3
The number of demolition or closing orders made	.. ..	Nil
The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	.. ..	Nil
The number of houses demolished	.. ..	Nil

(E) NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS, ETC.

1. GENERAL

26 complaints of nuisances were dealt with during the year. 14 informal notices and 3 Statutory Notices were served.

2. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Four inspections of factories were made, and unsuitable sanitary accommodation was found in one case. The matter was put right by informal action. Form 572 has been completed.

3. MILK & DAIRIES

The dairies within the Urban District were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Fourteen samples were taken from retailers distributing milk in the district. Of these, only one proved to be unsatisfactory.

4. ICE CREAM

Regular inspections of retail premises were made and three samples were taken, all being Grade 1.

5. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Operator whose services are shared with Leighton Buzzard U.D.C.

Visits were made as follows:-

Dwelling houses	.. .. .	49
Business premises	.. .. .	3
Local Authority premises, etc.	..	3

Sewer inspections were made, and treatment carried out where slight infestations were noted.

6. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	130	27	32	481	305
Number inspected	130	27	32	481	305
<u>All diseases except</u>					
<u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	1	3	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	8	Nil	3	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci . .	16%	33%	9%	1%	1%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	4	Nil	Nil	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3%	15%	Nil	Nil	3%
Cysticercosis:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses were slaughtered.

12 cwts. 3 qrs. 3lbs. of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption was condemned.

No condemnation certificates were issued in respect of other foods.

7. SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The private slaughterhouse in Ship Road was relicensed for one year.

(F) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

An epidemic of Measles occurred in the latter part of the year. Most of the cases were in the last quarter.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Whooping Cough	18	10
Scarlet Fever	3	2
Measles	1	199
Pneumonia	11	15
Food Poisoning	1	Nil
Erysipelas	Nil	1

3. CANCER

There were four deaths from Cancer during the year, compared with seven in 1954.

4. TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. No new cases were notified.

D.H. WALDRON

Medical Officer of Health

W. MEREDITH

Sanitary Inspector



